

Claims

1. A computer implemented method for guiding a funeral planning session, comprising:

displaying a base image of a funeral item;

superimposing an overlay image of a correlated item over the base image in response to a user selecting the correlated item in such a manner as to form a composite image.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing image data selected from a group consisting of: the base image, the overlay image and the composite image, and some combination, thereof, within a database.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising retrieving the image data from the database.

4. The method according to claim 2, wherein the base image comprises a depiction of a viewing room, and wherein the overlay image comprises a depiction of a funeral product, and wherein the composite image depicts placement of the funeral product in the viewing room

5. The method according to claim 2, wherein the database is resident at a local computer.

6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising initiating the retrieval of the image data in response to an instruction from the remote network server.

7. The method according to claim 2, further comprising providing interface programming adapted to enable a user to enter product information to the database in response to user input.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the product information includes image data.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the product information relates to funeral data selected from a group consisting of: a service, a product, and some combination, thereof.

10. The method according to claim 2, further comprising entering pricing information relating to the funeral and correlated items into the database.

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising retrieving the pricing information from the database.

12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising designating the correlated item in response to the user selecting a theme.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein the theme is selected from a group consisting of: a hobby, an interest, a religious affiliation, a physical characteristic, an occupation, and some combination, thereof.

14. The method according to claim 12, further comprising tailoring an aspect of the funeral planning session according to the theme.

15. The method according to claim 12, further comprising tailoring a display according to the theme.

16. The method according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the images is a photograph.

17. The method according to claim 1, wherein the items are selected from a group consisting of: a casket, a corner adornment, a cap panel, an urn, an engraving and some combination, thereof.

18. The method according to claim 1, further comprising generating a comprehensive plan that includes the funeral and correlated items.

19. The method according to claim 18, further comprising printing the plan.

20. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
prompting user input relating to the funeral planning session.

21. The method according to claim 1, further comprising
overlaying an additional image over the composite image.

22. A method of selecting a funerary product from a local
computer networked to a remote server, the local computer having a database that
maintains at least one image associated with at least one of a plurality of funeral
items, comprising:

retrieving the image from the database in response to a request
from the remote server; and

thereafter displaying the image on the local computer.

23. An apparatus, comprising:
a memory;
a database resident in the memory, the database storing images
associated with a plurality of funeral products; and

a program configured to access the database and retrieve a base
image associated with one of the plurality of funeral items, display the base image,
and superimpose an overlay image of a correlated item of the plurality of funeral
items over the base image in such a manner as to form a composite image.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program retrieves image data stored at the database and selected from a group consisting of: the base image, the overlay image and the composite image, and some combination, thereof.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program accesses the database from a remote network server.

26. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the database is resident at a local computer.

27. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the program initiates the retrieval of the image data in response to an instruction from the remote network server.

28. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program provides an interface adapted to enable a user to enter product information to the database.

29. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the product information includes image data.

30. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the product information relates to funeral data selected from a group consisting of: a service, a product, and some combination, thereof.

31. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program facilitates entering pricing information relating to the funeral and correlated items to the database.

32. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the program initiates retrieval of the pricing information from the database.

33. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program determines the correlated item in response to the user selecting a theme.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the theme is selected from a group consisting of: a hobby, an interest, a religious affiliation, a physical characteristic, an occupation, and some combination, thereof.

35. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program tailors an aspect of the funeral planning session according to the theme.

36. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program tailors a display according to the theme.

37. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program associates the funeral item with the base image.

38. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program associates the correlated item with the overlay image.

39. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program generates a comprehensive plan that includes the funeral and correlated items.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the program initiates printing the plan.

41. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program prompts user input relating to the funeral planning session.

42. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the program overlays an additional image over the composite image.

43. The method according to claim 23, wherein at least one of the images is a photograph.

44. The method according to claim 23, wherein the items are selected from a group consisting of: a casket, a corner adornment, a cap panel, an urn, an engraving and some combination, thereof.

45. An apparatus, comprising:

- a memory resident on a local computer;
- a database resident within the memory, the database storing at least one image associated with at least one of a plurality of funeral items; and
- a program executing on the local computer and configured to access the database to retrieve the image, and initiate a display of the image on the local computer in response to a request from a remote network server.

46. An apparatus, comprising:

- a memory resident on a local computer;
- a database resident within the memory, the database storing at least one base image associated with a first funeral item and at least one overlay image associated with a correlated funeral item; and
- a program executing on the local computer and configured to access the database to retrieve and initiate a display of the base image; the program further superimposing the overlay image over the base image in response to a request from a remote network server.

47. An apparatus, comprising:

a memory resident on a network server;

a program resident within the memory and in communication with a local computer, the program configured to direct the local computer to display an image associated with a funeral item in response to a request initiated by the local computer.

48. A program product, comprising:

a program configured to access a database storing images associated with a plurality of funeral products and retrieve a base image associated with one of the plurality of funeral items, display the base image, and superimpose an overlay image of a correlated item of the plurality of funeral items over the base image in such a manner as to form a composite image; and

a signal bearing medium bearing the program.

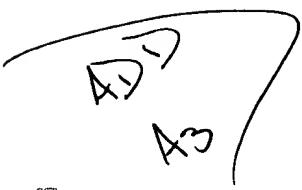
49. The program product of claim 48, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission medium.

50. A program product, comprising:

a program executing on the local computer and configured to access a database storing images associated with a plurality of funeral products, and to retrieve and initiate a display of a funeral item image on the local computer in response to a request from a remote network; and

a signal bearing medium bearing the program.

51. The program product of claim 50, wherein the signal bearing medium includes at least one of a recordable medium and a transmission medium.



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